

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 IO-13

EB-07 NRC-07 OES-06 ERDA-07 FEA-01 EUR-12 COME-00

TRSE-00 MC-02 /117 W

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R 221200Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7281

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10720

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TECH, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF NRC HEARING

1. THE MAJOR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILIES APPEARING IN NEW DELHI ON JULY 22 GAVE PROMINENT, IN MOST CASES FRONT-PAGE, COVERAGE TO NEWS ACCOUNTS OF THE TWO-DAY NRC HEARING UNDER SUCH HEADLINES AS, "STRONG U.S. CASE FOR URANIUM SUPPLY" (HINDUSTAN TIMES), AND "U.S. OFFICIAL'S PLEA TO RESUME TARAPUR N-SUPPLY" (MOSCOW-LINING PATRIOT).

2. ALL PAPERS EXCEPT THE STATESMAN, WHICH CARRIED A WARREN UNNA PIECE, USED A SAMACHAR REPORT DATED WASHINGTON, LEADING: "THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE A STRONG PLEA BEFORE THE NRC THAT THE EXPORT LICENSE FOR SHIPPING THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO INDIA FOR THE TARAPUR POWER PLANT SHOULD BE ALLOWED WITHOUT PREDONDITION." SAMACHAR IDENTIFIED MYRON KRATZER AS WITNESS ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT, REPORTING THAT HE "URGED THAT A SEPARATE DIALOGUE...
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BE PURSUED WITH INDIA ON THE REPURCHASE OF THE SPENT

FUEL OR PLUTONIUM OUT OF THE TARAPUR PLANT. BUT THIS DIALOGUE SHOULD NOT BE LINKED TO THE SHIPMENTS."

3. THE WIRE SERVICE SAID WITNESSES LONG, ADRIEN AND SCOVILLE "OPPOSED THE ISSUE OF FURTHER EXPORT LICENSES TO INDIA UNLESS INDIA AGREED TO STRINGENT SAFEGUARDS," SUCH AS SIGNING "THE DISCRIMINATORY NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY," PLACING ALL ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES UNDER IAEA, OR OBTAINING "A FLAT ASSURANCE FROM INDIA THAT IT WOULD REFRAIN FROM NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS."

4. THREE OF THE NEWSPAPERS TRAILED THEIR NRC STORIES WITH AN AP SIDEBAR CITING "DEPARTMENT SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED FOR THE SALE OF NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS TO ISRAEL AND EGYPT.

5. THE UNNA STORY IN THE STATESMAN, RUNNING ALMOST A FULL COLUMN UNDER THE HEADLINE, "STATE DEPARTMENT PLEA TO KEEP TARAPUR GOING," SUMMARIZED INDIVIDUALLY AND IN MORE DETAIL TESTIMONY BY LAWRENCE, KRATZER, LONG AND MARCH. HE REPORTED THAT "ALL THE WITNESSES TO HALT TARAPUR'S REFUELING ACKNOWLEDGED, UNDER QUESTIONING BY THE NRC COMMISSIONERS, THAT THEY CONSIDERED INDIA NOW SO SCIENTIFICALLY ADVANCED THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE USA DECIDED ABOUT TARAPUR'S REFUELLING, INDIA WOULD PROCEED IN HER NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT AS SHE SAW FIT."SAXBE

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